

State Agency Recognition Awards 2003

Title of Nomination:

Executive Support
Customer Service
Contract Simplification
Electronic Commerce
Education/Outreach
☒ Public/Private Partnerships
Prompt Payment

Small Business/DVBE Advocate of the Year

Award Recipient: Bessie Papailias
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Person Nominating:

(person to notify if your nomination is a winner. Fill out only if different than the person above.)

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Ms. Papailias was appointed, by the Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, as Project Manager, for Small Business/DVBE Programs on February 1, 2001. Her responsibilities included the establishment of a cohesive and comprehensive small business program for the Agency, as well as assisting departments in the development of their program infrastructure.

Since that time, Ms. Papailias has been instrumental in assisting Agency departments in achieving goals that have surpassed the 25% small business goal and the 3% disabled veteran business enterprise goal (DVBE). Ms. Papailias' involvement with key councils, committees and task groups, as well as community based organizations and industry groups have not only afforded her the opportunity to forge public/private partnerships, but her efforts have also enhanced the State of California's small business/DVBE program efforts and attainments.

WRITTEN NOMINATION:

Bessie Papailias is currently serving as the Project Manager for Small Business/DVBE Programs for the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Ms. Papailias is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive Agency-wide small business/DYBE program for the 14 Agency departments and offices. She provides policy guidance to all BT &H departments on State small business/DVBE mandates, requirements and regulations; and, monitors and assesses department performance. Ms. Papailias is the Secretary's designee on the Governor's Small Business Reform Task Force and represents the Agency on the DGS Small Business Council, DGS Small Business Advocate Steering Committee, CalTrans Small Business Council, Governor's Summit Steering Committee and the CA Workforce Investment Board's Small Business Task Group. She also serves as the Agency Small Business/DVBE Advocate.

Ms. Papailias' background includes extensive program compliance activities in both federal and state programs, including program development, budgeting, contracting and performance measurement. Ms. Papailias has worked for the State of California for 28 years, 20 of which have been with the Department of Transportation. Prior to her BT &H assignment, Ms. Papailias was the Regulatory Compliance Manager for the Civil Rights program at California Department of Transportation/CalTrans, which included external/internal civil rights (including federal disadvantaged business enterprises), .equal employment opportunity, Title VI, and the Americans with Disability Act requirements.

Ms. Papailias has assisted the State of California's small business/DVBE program in developing various public/private partnerships through her facilitation of the BT &H Agency small business forums, community/department meetings and her presentations to key industry groups, i.e., National Association of Women Business Owners Executive Committee, California Small Business Roundtable, California Small Business Association, California Black Chamber of Commerce, the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Latino Caucus. She has taken the lead with various state agencies/departments to conduct discussions with community-based groups to ensure that the State of California's commitments to the small business/DVBE community are carried out. Her commitment and passion to the program has been recognized through continual small business/DVBE acknowledgements, i.e., CalTrans Small Business Council, Disabled Veterans Business Alliance, and the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program.